

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1. -7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An instrument assembly for percutaneously implanting an orthopaedic assembly having a first orthopaedic component and a second orthopaedic component, said instrument assembly comprising:

a first instrument which is adapted to be secured to said first orthopaedic component, said first instrument having a first alignment feature;

a second instrument which is adapted to be secured to said second orthopaedic component, said second instrument having a second alignment feature; and

a third instrument having a third alignment feature which is adapted to cooperate with said first alignment feature and said second alignment feature so as to position said first instrument and said second instrument in a predetermined position relative to one another, thereby positioning said first orthopaedic component and said second orthopaedic component relative to each other, wherein:

said first orthopaedic component includes a bone screw which is adapted to be screwed into a bone,

said second orthopaedic component includes a bone plate which is adapted to be secured to said bone screw, and

said third alignment feature is further adapted to cooperate with said first alignment feature and said second alignment feature so as to position said bone plate in contact with said bone screw during movement of said second instrument with said bone plate secured thereto.

9. (Original) The instrument assembly of claim 8, wherein said first instrument is further adapted to be secured to said first orthopaedic component prior to implantation of said first orthopaedic component into a body of a patient.

10. (Original) The instrument assembly of claim 8, wherein said first instrument is further adapted to be secured to said first orthopaedic component subsequent to implantation of said first orthopaedic component into a body of a patient.

11. (Cancelled)

4 ~~12.~~ (Currently Amended) The instrument assembly of claim ~~11~~ 8, wherein:

said bone screw has a flange secured thereto,

said bone plate has a channel defined therein, and

said third alignment feature is further adapted to cooperate with said first alignment feature and said second alignment feature such that said flange is advanced into said channel during movement of said second instrument with said bone plate secured thereto.

5 ~~13.~~ (Original) The instrument assembly of claim ~~8~~ 8, wherein:

said first alignment feature includes a first recess defined in said first instrument,

said second alignment feature includes a second recess defined in said second

instrument,

said third alignment feature includes an alignment member extending from said

third instrument, and

both said first recess and said second recess are adapted to receive said alignment member therein.

14. - 20. (Cancelled)

6 ~~21.~~ (Original) An instrument assembly for percutaneously implanting a hip screw and a bone plate, comprising:

a screw locating instrument which is adapted to be secured to said hip screw, said screw locating instrument having a first alignment feature;

a plate locating instrument which is adapted to be secured to said bone plate, said plate locating instrument having a second alignment feature; and

an alignment instrument having a third alignment feature which is adapted to cooperate with said first alignment feature and said second alignment feature so as to position said screw locating instrument and said plate locating instrument in a predetermined position relative to one another thereby positioning said hip screw and said bone plate relative to one another.

7/ 22. (Original) The instrument assembly of claim 21, wherein said plate locating instrument is further adapted to be secured to said bone plate prior to implantation of said bone plate into a body of a patient.

8/ 23. (Original) The instrument assembly of claim 21, wherein said screw locating instrument is further adapted to be secured to said hip screw prior to implantation of said hip screw into a body of a patient.

9/ 24. (Original) The instrument assembly of claim 21, wherein:
said hip screw has a flange secured thereto,
said bone plate has a channel defined therein, and
said third alignment feature is further adapted to cooperate with said first alignment feature and said second alignment feature such that said flange is advanced into said channel during movement of said plate locating instrument with said bone plate secured thereto.

B, 10/ 25. (Original) The instrument assembly of claim 21, wherein:
said first alignment feature includes a first recess defined in said screw locating instrument,
said second alignment feature includes a second recess defined in said plate locating instrument,
said third alignment feature includes an alignment member extending from said alignment instrument, and
both said first recess and said second recess are adapted to receive said alignment member therein.